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SENATE MEMORIAL 1

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FORMER STATE SENATOR  
RAY LEGER.

WHEREAS, Ray Leger, a resident of Las Vegas, New Mexico,  
passed away on October 14, 2009 at the age of eighty-four; and

WHEREAS, Ray was born on January 6, 1925, the eleventh of  
fourteen children, to Francisco and Isabel Leger, a ranching  
and farming family; and

WHEREAS, Ray proudly and honorably served his country in  
the United States Army at the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Ray attended New Mexico Highlands University on  
the G.I. bill, where he was on the dean's list and listed in  
*Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges*, and where  
he earned bachelor's and master's degrees; and

WHEREAS, Ray had a long career in education throughout

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1 northern New Mexico and became the longest-serving  
2 superintendent of schools for the West Las Vegas Public School  
3 District, overseeing the construction of modern facilities and  
4 obtaining a significant increase in federal funding and  
5 programs in mathematics and the sciences; and

6 WHEREAS, Ray, through the United States State Department,  
7 spent a year sharing his knowledge on education administration  
8 with the Costa Rican Ministry of Education; and

9 WHEREAS, Ray was very active in his community and served  
10 as a New Mexico state senator from 1973 to 1980; and

11 WHEREAS, Ray used the political process to improve the  
12 quality of life of individuals; and

13 WHEREAS, Ray's legislative legacy in education and health  
14 still beneficially impacts New Mexicans today; and

15 WHEREAS, Ray championed the Bilingual Multicultural  
16 Education Act in 1973, which still forms the foundation for  
17 multicultural education in New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, Ray's life, which was dedicated to family,  
19 politics and public service, is worth recognizing and  
20 celebrating;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the life and contributions of Ray Leger be  
23 recognized; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that condolences be extended to the  
25 family and friends of Ray Leger; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the family of Ray Leger.

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